

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jack Richards on January 4, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 42 and 43 have been cancelled.

In claim 41, line 1, "The article of claim 37, wherein content for searching the phoneme lattice comprises content for: receiving a phoneme lattice;" has been changed to --- An article comprising: a machine accessible medium having content stored thereon, wherein the content is accessed by a processor, the content provides for processing a speech signal by:

receiving an input speech signal;

constructing a phoneme lattice for the input speech signal;

determining arc parameters of the phoneme lattice; ---.

In claim 41, line 7, "for the traversed path." has been changed to

--- based on flexible endpoints for phonemes in the traversed path; and

determining a processing result for the input speech signal based on the modified score. ---

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan McFadden whose telephone number is 571-272-7621. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Susan McFadden/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626
January 4, 2010